

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:  INTERSTATE POWER COMPANY and IES UTILITIES INC.	DOCKET NOS. ARC-01-150 ARC-01-151
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**ORDER DOCKETING CASES AND ESTABLISHING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

(Issued June 19, 2001)

Pursuant to 199 IAC 20.13(1), the Utilities Board (Board) notified Interstate Power Company (Interstate) and IES Utilities Inc. (IES) by order issued January 19, 2001, that the Board intended to conduct a contested case proceeding for the purpose of evaluating Interstate's and IES' electric fuel procurement and contracting practices. Interstate and IES, the two public utility affiliates of Alliant Energy (Alliant) providing retail service to Iowa customers, filed a joint fuel procurement plan on May 15, 2001.

In addition to examining Interstate's and IES' fuel procurement and contracting practices, the Board in its January 19 order said it was also examining the following issues: 1) whether Alliant's contracting practices have resulted in a violation of the rate freeze agreed to by IES and Interstate in the merger with Wisconsin Power and Light to form Alliant, 2) whether the current energy adjustment clause flowthrough should be replaced with incentives to reduce fuel costs similar to those that MidAmerican Energy Company is operating under pursuant to a contested case

settlement, and 3) whether an adjustment should be made to reflect capacity costs for long-term contracts that will soon be expiring, if those long-term contracts are not replaced. Interstate and IES included testimony on these issues in their filing.

The three issues cited above are related to fuel procurement and contracting practices and much of the testimony and evidence on fuel procurement and contracting is also relevant to these issues. It would not be a prudent use of the parties' or the Board's time to examine these issues individually in separate contested case dockets. Therefore, the Board will consolidate consideration of these issues with an examination of Interstate's and IES' fuel procurement and contracting practices in docketed contested case proceedings, identified as Docket Nos. ARC-01-150 and ARC-01-151. A joint procedural schedule will be established.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. The fuel procurement plan filed May 15, 2001, by Interstate Power Company and IES Utilities Inc. shall be docketed as a contested case proceeding and consolidated with consideration of the three issues identified in the body of this order.
2. The following joint procedural schedule is established:
  - a. On or before July 20, 2001, the Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice and any intervenors shall file prepared direct testimony and exhibits.
  - b. On or before August 31, 2001, each utility shall file prepared rebuttal testimony and exhibits.

c. A hearing on these matters shall be held on Monday, October 15, 2001, beginning at 10 a.m., for the purpose of receiving testimony and the cross-examination of all testimony. The hearing shall be held in the Board's hearing room at 350 Maple Street, Des Moines, Iowa. Persons with disabilities requiring assistive services or devices to observe or participate should contact the Board at (515) 281-5256 in advance of the scheduled date to request that appropriate arrangements be made.

d. On or before November 5, 2001, each utility, the Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice, and any intervenors may file initial briefs.

e. On or before November 13, 2001, any party who has filed an initial brief may file a reply brief.

3. In the absence of objection, all underlying workpapers shall become a part of the evidentiary record of these proceedings at the time the related testimony and exhibits are entered into the record.

4. In the absence of objection, all data requests and responses referred to in oral testimony or on cross-examination which have not been previously filed shall become a part of the evidentiary record of these proceedings. The party making reference to the data request shall file an original and six copies of the data request and response with the Board at the earliest possible time.

5. In the absence of objection, when the Board has called for further evidence on any issue and the evidence is filed after the close of the hearing, the

evidentiary record will be reopened and the evidence will become part of the record five days after the evidence is filed with the Board. All evidence filed pursuant to this paragraph shall be filed no later than seven days after the close of the hearing in this proceeding.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper  
Acting Executive Secretary

/s/ Diane Munns

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2001.